United Nations A/64/506–S/2009/561

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 October 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 28 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On 27 October 2009, at 1850 hours, the Israeli army bombarded the outskirts of the town of Houla in South Lebanon with about nine 155 mm shells. During that time, Israeli aircraft continued their violation of Lebanon's airspace. Israel proclaimed that its bombing of the outskirts of Houla came in response to the launching of one missile, from the same area and on the same day.

The Lebanese Government immediately condemned the missile launch, and the Lebanese Armed Forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) jointly started to investigate the incident to determine its perpetrators in order to hold them accountable.

This violent Israeli attack is a premeditated and flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006); it constitutes one more breach of a previously set practice according to which any incident across the Blue Line should be dealt with through UNIFIL and without resorting to unilateral measures. Clearly, such an action cannot meet any of the requirements of self-defence, as expressed in the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, for such Israeli unilateral behaviour, following a similar incident on 11 September in Klaele, amounts to a grave pattern of disrespect for international law.

It is needless to add that Israel's systematic shelling, after a rocket is launched, always delays and hampers the effective and timely investigation by the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL of the incident at hand.

This alarming incident also occurred a few days after an incident on 17 October, when an explosion occurred in the Houla region, demonstrating that Israel has been planting spying devices in South Lebanon. Israel had detonated two such devices from afar. Moreover, Israeli officials have repeatedly stated that they will continue their spying activities, in blatant violation of Lebanese sovereignty. These hostile Israeli activities constitute an additional breach of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and encroach upon the roles of the Lebanese Armed Forces

09-58399 (E) 301009

Please recycle

and UNIFIL in helping to ensure its full implementation. Furthermore, Israel's continuous violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and its threats against Lebanon's Government and people are a serious source of concern since they not only constitute an escalation of an already precarious situation but also seem to indicate that Israel is preparing for a large-scale aggression against Lebanon.

I wish to draw your attention to this irresponsible and reprehensible Israeli behaviour, which adds to other continuous Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), including daily overflights and incursions into Lebanese territory, and the ongoing occupation of the northern part of El-Ghajar and of the Sheba'a farms and Kfarshouba hills, while reiterating Lebanon's firm commitment to resolution 1701 (2006), to the ongoing close cooperation between the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL and to the safety and freedom of movement of UNIFIL in its area of operation in conformity with the agreed rules of engagements.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative